
Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : "wild" rainbows
Re: "wild" rainbows
Author: : pcray1231
Date: : 2009/7/2 8:34:32
URL:

Jack,

Ok, I'm getting confused about where we agree and disagree now. :). Lets lay out a summary.

1. The wild brook trout in our state could be a. mostly heritage, natural strains. b. mostly a mix of different heritage natural strains (and perhaps some stockie blood) so that few if any of the original strains are still "pure", but they weren't totally eradicated and those genes still exist. c. Mostly descended from stockies, hence the PA strains are gone and we have VT fish or something or other. With the exception of TUPS, we all went with a or b. Thankfully, studies are underway at Mansfield, likely as part of the EBTJV, and we will all have more definitive answers soon. We all pretty much agreed the result has little effect on management decisions, unless only a small handful of isolated heritage strains are found, at which point we have a decision to make on whether to place special protections on them.
2. A much higher percentage of the total wild brown trout streams are under special regs than the percentage of wild brook trout streams.
3. It can be debated whether #2 is a bias for type of fish, or angler preference for a style of water (fertility, size, fish size, etc.). Most of us picked the latter but for various different reasons. My point was that it doesn't matter if the reasons are valid, it still shows brook trout are an undervalued resource that needs some promoting, IMO of course.
4. Brown trout average larger in every single stream where the two species co-populate. Browns do indeed tend to dominate in more fertile waters, but their size advantage over brookies has nothing to do with fertility. We are debating whether they grow more quickly overall, sexually mature a year later and thus grow more quickly for only one year, or simply live longer and thus have a higher average age. I hold that it doesn't matter, the end result is the same, but FWIW, I'll go with "all 3 factors are at play."